

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached drawings include changes to FIGS. 1 and 2. The sheet containing FIG. 1 replaces the original sheet including only FIG 1, and the sheet containing FIG. 2 replaces the original sheet including only FIG. 2.

FIGS. 1 and 2 have been labeled as "Prior Art." The drawing sheets are labeled in the top margin as "Replacement Sheet" pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121(d).

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended. New claim 7 has been added.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-7 are pending and under consideration. No new matter is being presented and approval and entry of the amended and new claims are requested.

I. CHANGES TO THE DRAWINGS

At page 2, item 1, of the Office Action, the Examiner states that FIGS. 1 and 2 should be labeled as "Prior Art." Accordingly, FIGS. 1 and 2 have been changed to include the "Prior Art" labels.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry of the replacement drawings are respectfully requested.

II. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1 AND 2 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b) AS BEING CLEARLY ANTICIPATED BY LOERCH (U.S. PATENT NO. 4,632,612)

The rejections of claims 1 and 2 are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Loerch discloses an apparatus and method for angularly orienting a machine tool spindle, which is connected to an electric motor that drives the spindle. (Column 2, lines 45-50). A single proximity sensor (32), mounted on the spindle head, generates a signal each time the target passes it as the spindle rotates. A transducer (39) is connected to the shaft of the motor to provide a continually updated output indicating the angular orientation of the shaft. (Column 2, lines 56-62 and FIG. 5). The machine tool includes a numerical control circuit that receives the transducer outputs. The numerical control circuit (42) compares the transducer outputs with possible output values stored in a data storage table (44) and, thus, the numerical control circuit determines the angular position of the spindle. (Column 2, line 62-column 3, line 5).

In contrast, amended claim 1 of the present invention teaches a numerical controller wherein the motor control section receives the signals from one or a plurality of sensors through the interface unit and controls one or a plurality of motors corresponding to the one or a plurality

of sensors according to the correspondence between the sensors and the motors set in the data table. Therefore, a plurality of sensors can be used by a single motor or a single sensor can be used by a plurality of motors.

Loerch does not teach using signals from a plurality of sensors for one motor, or a signal from a one sensor for a plurality of motors, as recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, amended claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the reference.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and inherits the patentable limitations thereof. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 2 is patentable over Loerch.

III. NEW INDEPENDENT CLAIM 7

New claim 7 is a method claim with limitations similar to those of amended claim 1. The arguments above for amended claim 1 are asserted for new claim 7. Therefore, for the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 7 patentably distinguishes over the reference. Approval and entry of new claim 7 are respectfully requested.

IV. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

At page 3, item 4, of the Office Action, the Examiner states that claims 3 and 6 are objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims.

Claims 3 and 6 depend from claim 1, which is patentable for the reasons set forth herein. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3 and 6 are allowable as they are.

At page 4, item 5, of the Office Action, the Examiner states that claims 4 and 5 are allowable.

V. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed on May 26, 2005. It is respectfully requested that it be considered and the references made of record.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome, and all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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